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KEW'S HISTORIC PRECINCT

OLD COURTHOUSE FOR LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM?

The Kew Historical Society Inc. is at present appealing to the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Boroondara for their support in acquiring the Old Courthouse at 190 High Street, Kew, for a Local History Museum.

We are proposing that the Council rent the Old Police Station and Courthouse buildings from the State Government, and relocate its Customer Service in the old Police Station Building, together with other community based services, and provide the Courthouse as a Local History Museum, to be run by volunteers from our Society.

This would enable the Society's historical collection and the services it provides to be made more accessible to the general public, in a building which is in itself, a special part of Kew's history.

There are 41 disused Courthouses in the State of Victoria which have become Museums and the headquarters for local Historical Societies.

We appeal to everyone who has the interest of Kew at heart, to help us now, before the opportunity is lost.

Kew needs Civic Landmarks, so it is urgent that these important buildings be retained for future generations We cannot stand by while they are being sold off to the highest bidder.

For further information, contact Dorothy Benyei on _____, or Dione McIntyre on _____

WE NEED YOUR HELP

On SATURDAY 28th. SEPTEMBER 2002 - 10 am to 1pm


We will be stationed opposite the Kew Courthouse to gather public support.

Please come along and join us

and also please write to the Mayor and Councillors, City of Boroondara, either in your own handwriting, or using the enclosed letter.

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President
Miss Lisa D'Acri

Kew Historical Society Inc
 Founded 1958  Incorporated 1987
*Still serving the community families, schools,
 students, historians and other researchers.*

Secretary:
Miss Betty Huston

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 Mailing address: P.O. Box 175, Kew Vic 3101
 NEWSLETTER NO. 71 - September 2002

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Another financial year has come to an end. It is now time to reflect on the events of the past year and the things we have accomplished or learnt during the course of time. Once again it has been a successful year, which included the induction of new members and the return of familiar faces.

The program of guest speakers was again the highlight of the monthly meetings. The presentations covered a variety of topics and were not only informative but provided our society with issues to be discussed and pursued.

Senior Sergeant Ron Sinclair from the Kew Police Station was our first speaker for this year. His presentation on the history of the Kew Police Station and Court House, and the creation of the new 'super' Police Station in Kew East was not only interesting but well researched. It also left us wondering about the future use of the old Kew Police Station and Court House building. Many other speakers presented at our meetings. They include Reg Rippon, who spoke about the progress of the proposed high-rise development at the Johnston Street bridge and the possible destruction of the environment and Kew landscape; Tom Roberts an owner of a Kew art Gallery; and Francis Stewart from the Kew Junction Traders Association informed the Society of events and competitions being held within the Kew Junction shopping area. The members of the Society were also important contributors to the monthly meetings and I would like to thank them for their co-operation and hard work. Everyone's stories and ideas were appreciated and valued.

There have been many exciting events during the past year. Our Society was again asked to stage an Historical Display in the Phyllis Hore Room and run Historical Bus Tours as part of the Kew festival. The display was held on 16th., 17th. and 18th. March. It gave everyone who visited a glimpse into the living conditions of former times. A great deal of work was involved in setting up and supervising the display, and in dismantling it and storing the materials. Fortunately, we had the help of two Trinity Grammar

School students, Chris Potts and Kim Taylor, who helped with the setting up of the display. I thank all who were able to volunteer their time and effort.

The Monday of the Kew Festival Display was specifically devoted to the children from four local primary schools. Through a variety of hands-on activities they were able to experience what life was like in former times. The activities included writing with ink and quills and using old tools.

Another memorable event was the Society's inclusion in the Kew Festival Parade. A small but immaculately dressed group participated, representing the Society's involvement in the local community. I thank the following for marching in the parade: Graeme Lindsay and his grandson, Philip Slobom, Margaret Robinson and my niece Raquel. I, too, had a marvellous time marching in the parade! It is hoped that next year we will have more people marching behind the Kew Historical Society banner.

The future of the old Kew Court House and Police Station has been of great concern to the Society. It is important that the building is preserved to maintain its historical significance. For this reason the Society has chosen to petition the Government for the acquisition of the building. During this past year the Society has made significant steps towards its goal to acquire all or part of it for community use.

Committee members have been meeting on a regular basis to discuss and plan the next step in our strategy. I thank the Committee members involved and Philip Slobom, who has acted as an adviser, for their persistence and tireless work.

Once again I thank the Office Bearers and Committee members for their dedication and hard work. It has been an absolute honour and pleasure working with people who have devoted their time and energy to making the Society as great as it can be. I have learned a lot throughout the year, and it has been an enjoyable experience. Thank you,
 Lisa D'Acri.

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If you choose to write your own letter, you may find some of the following list helpful, but please vary the order of these points as you see fit, and add your own arguments, to prevent uniformity:

1. Apart from their heritage value, the Old Kew Police Station and Courthouse buildings are an important part of Kew's early history.
2. Relocation of the Kew Post Office, and Council amalgamations, have altered the village atmosphere of Kew. There is no Town Hall, and community facilities are almost non-existent.
3. The location, and availability of public transport, make these buildings ideally suited for use by the older and younger members of the community.
4. The Kew Historical Society, established in 1958, owns a collection of historical material pertaining to the history of Kew. At present this is not accessible to the public apart from occasional displays.
5. The Kew Courthouse would be an appropriate location for a Local History Museum and meeting room where research can be carried out by the public, and more especially by the pupils of the many schools within the area.
6. The Kew Customer Service Centre of the City of Boroondara would be more appropriately located within the Old Police Station building rather than in its present location in the foyer of the Kew Library.
7. Michael Challinger's book, "Historic Courthouses of Victoria" lists 41 disused Courthouses throughout Victoria which have now become the Headquarters of Local Historical Societies.
8. A rental agreement has just been entered into between the Hobson's Bay Council and the State Government whereby their disused Courthouse is to be adapted for the use of the community.

VALE YVONNE McMILLAN

We were saddened by the sudden death of Yvonne McMillan in August. Yvonne joined the Society two years ago. The mother of our Hon. Secretary, Betty Huston, and Yvonne's mother were sisters..

We had hoped that Yvonne would fill the position of Hon. Treasurer for 2002-3, but it was not to be

WELCOME BACK TO LASZLO.

We were delighted to welcome Laszlo Benyei back at our August meeting after his recent illness. However, although willing, following his long and highly efficient period as our **Honorary Treasurer**, he is no longer eligible to hold that position of office in the coming election, so **another candidate for Hon. Treasurer** is sought.

Laszlo's shoes will be hard to fill, as he has filled the role impeccably. We thank him for his diligence, and we appeal for one of you to come forth and nominate for the position. for the coming year With Laszlo's guidance **it will be a breeze !**

OUR END OF YEAR PARTY

Our usual party will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, December 11th., taking the form of a Shared Evening Meal, to which everyone is welcome. At our meetings, or by phone to 9853 8758 or 9853 5575, please indicate what items of food you propose to contribute. Food can be heated if desired.

Santa Claus asks everyone (members and guests) to bring a small wrapped and labeled gift , (about \$2), men to bring one for a man, ladies one for a lady.

And what else - Christmas carols, anything might happen.. All good fun and fellowship. Don't miss it.

2002 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Monthly meetings will be held in the Phyllis Hore Room on the second Wednesday of the month, commencing at 8 p.m. unless otherwise notified. Members are **free to invite guests** to the meetings, and **members of the public, especially students, are welcome.**

Wed	Oct	9	Annual General Meeting. Guest Speaker: Dr. Ray Marginson, Chairman, Aust., Jazz Archive.
Wed	Nov	13	Travel: "Down the Amazon with Betty in 1972".
Wed	Dec	11	End of year social. Details on Page 3.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Historical Society will be held on 9th. October 2002 at 8 p.m. in the Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, Civic Drive, off Cotham Road, Kew. The business to be transacted at the meeting will be:

(1) **Reports** of office bearers for the year ending 30th. September 2002.

(2) **Election of office bearers** for the year 2002/2003. According to our Rules, approved under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, **all positions become vacant**, and any member wishing to nominate a member for any position on the Committee should obtain a nomination form from the Secretary. Rule 20 (1) states that, "Nominations of

candidates for election as officers of the Society or as ordinary members of the Committee:

(a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Society (as proposer and seconder), with the written consent of the candidate, which may be endorsed on the nomination form and,

(b) shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Society at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting." *Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.*

(3) **Subscriptions** for the year 2001/2002 became due on 1st. July 2002 and **are payable prior to the Annual General Meeting.**

(4) Any other business of which prior notice has been given.

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER

It is customary for the Mayor of Boroondara to be asked to speak at our Annual Meeting. This year, as our Mayor is in her second year of office, we will be addressed instead by Dr. Ray Marginson, Chairman of the Australian Jazz Archive.

Dr. Marginson has been the driving force behind the establishment of the Archive during the past five years. It is now recognised as a Museum and has received sev-

eral grants and awards.

There are many parallels between the story of the AJA and what we aim to achieve in the establishment of our own Museum. We hope you will all attend, not only that we may all learn a lot from his experiences: he has also hinted that we might get to hear some examples of musical gems from the Archive as well.

MEMORIES OF KEW

We are continuing to gather material for our book. Contributions from members and friends are eagerly sought. If you know of an elderly person who has a story to tell of Kew, please let us know and we will arrange an interview.

Early photographs are also needed to illustrate the book.